



# NEWS RELEASE

## Deputy Mayor Toni Atkins

---

202 C Street MS10A • San Diego, CA 92101 • (619) 236-6633 • Fax: (619) 595-1481

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 4, 2005

Contact: Colleen Windsor (619) 236-7060

### **SOLAR POWER MAKES CENTS FOR SAN DIEGO**

**SAN DIEGO** – Deputy Mayor Toni Atkins today announced that local citizens and businesses, including the city of San Diego, who install solar powered systems, will continue to recover the full retail costs of the power produced through a concept called “net metering.”

“The Governor’s approval of Senate Bill 816 means San Diegans who install solar systems will be credited by San Diego Gas & Electric for the full cost of the energy produced,” said Deputy Mayor Atkins. “This is a big win for San Diego as we rely more on the abundance of clean solar energy we have available in the city and less on fossil fuel.”

“Net metering” permits homes and businesses who have solar panels (or wind turbines) to sell back excess energy to their utility service provider by creating credits against other usage periods at the same meter. These homes or businesses are typically not using much power during peak times and their electricity meter actually rolls backwards indicating the surplus power being provided back to the energy grid. Until SB 816 was passed, the San Diego region was rapidly approaching its approved maximum limit of 19 megawatts of installed systems eligible for “net metering.”

The passage of SB 816 increases the limit to 50 megawatts of “net metering.” This will allow for continued incentives as the city’s works towards its goal of installing 50 megawatts of new renewable energy by 2013. Reaching the 50 megawatt goal will provide electrical energy equivalent to a typical peaker power plant and avoids the climate impact from burning the fossil fuel to operate the plant.

-more-

## Add1-SOLAR POWER MAKES CENTS FOR SAN DIEGO

The city of San Diego currently produces approximately 300,000 kilowatt-hours of solar generated electricity which is used in city buildings in the Environmental Services, Metro Wastewater, Police and Fire Departments. Additional contracts are being solicited to provide 1 megawatt or approximately 1,500,000 kilowatt-hours of electric power from the new installations for each of the next five years.

The city of San Diego, Senator Christine Kehoe and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) joined forces to ensure the continuation of customer's cost recovery for solar systems installed in the San Diego region.

####